INVITATION & REGISTRATION PACK

Two events. One city. One week.

In May 2027 Kigali hosts the African Schools Debate Championships and the inaugural Rwanda Global Policy Forum, side by side. This pack sets out what each one is, who may enter, what it costs and how to take part.

EVENT ONE

African Schools Debate Championships

For African school and national teams. Nations League and Schools League. Owned by the African Schools Debate Council.

EVENT TWO

IHURIRO 2027 · Rwanda Global Policy Forum

High-school and university students from anywhere in the world. Two divisions, one global question.



Pre-registration opens 5 November 2026.

Free, non-binding, and the only route to a formal invitation. Invitations are issued on a rolling basis as delegations register.

One week in Kigali, two ways to take part



On 26 September 2026 the African Schools Debate Council awarded the 2027 championships to Rwanda, with 15 of 16 valid votes cast. The Rwanda Global Policy Forum convenes in Kigali in the same week.

Two distinct events run in Kigali between 26 and 30 May 2027. They share a city, a week and an organising team. They do not share an entry route, a fee or an eligibility rule, and a delegation may take part in one or in both.

Event one

African Schools Debate Championships

Competitive schools debating for African countries, in two leagues. Entry is through national debate programmes and through individual schools and academies. Owned by the African Schools Debate Council; hosted by iDebate Rwanda with the ALU Debate Club.

- African countries
- School students
- Teams of five
- USD 400 per delegate

Event two

IHURIRO 2027 · Rwanda Global Policy Forum

A five-day learning and policy experience built around one global question, with a High School division and a University division. Open to students from anywhere in the world. Convened by iDebate Rwanda.

- Open worldwide
- High school & university
- Teams of 3–5
- USD 400 per participant

Taking part in both. An institution may send a debate delegation to the championships and a policy team to the forum. The two programmes run concurrently, so an individual student takes part in one or the other, not both. Each is registered and paid for separately.

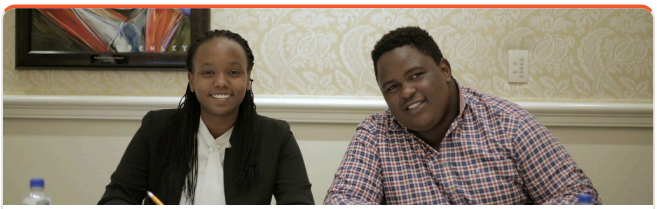
THE DATES THAT MATTER

PRE-REGISTRATION	FULL REGISTRATION OPENS	FINAL PAYMENT	BOTH EVENTS
5 Nov – 15 Dec 2026	31 Dec 2026	31 Mar 2027	26–30 May 2027

The next stage is not simply more participation. It is more meaningful participation.

African Schools Debate Championships

For the first time since 2010 the African Schools Debate Championships are held in person. Over five days the continent's strongest young debaters meet to compete, to learn, and to build friendships that outlast the final round. Outstanding motions, excellent adjudication and competitive integrity sit at the centre of it.



LEAGUE ONE

Nations League

Debate for your country.

Each participating country selects two national teams — the continental contests that give an African championship its distinctive character.

2
NATIONAL TEAMS PER COUNTRY



LEAGUE TWO

Schools League

Debate for your school.

Each participating country may enter up to four school teams, recognising the institutions where debate actually grows and where most students first learn to argue.

Up to 4
SCHOOL TEAMS PER COUNTRY

WHAT A DELEGATION BRINGS

5
DEBATERS PER TEAM

1
ACCOMPANYING ADULT PER TEAM

n − 1
ADJUDICATORS THE DELEGATION PROVIDES

THE ADJUDICATION OBLIGATION

A delegation entering **n** teams provides **n – 1** adjudicators: three teams, two adjudicators; five teams, four. A delegation entering a single team provides none. Adjudicators travel as delegates and pay the delegate package.

The number of preliminary rounds, the break size and the elimination structure are finalised with the African Schools Debate Council and the Chief Adjudication Panel, and published with the full registration pack.

One championship. Two leagues.

IHURIRO 2027
Rwanda Global Policy Forum

THE 2027 QUESTION · SDG 5, GENDER EQUALITY

Beyond Representation

When does representation become equality?

Once women gain greater formal representation and legal recognition, what else must change for equality to be experienced in economic, social and everyday life? The full challenge question is issued to registered teams ahead of the forum, with the Rwanda Reader — a set of foundational readings that includes competing interpretations and says plainly where evidence is contested.

IHURIRO brings high-school and university students from around the world to Kigali to investigate one major global problem — not in the abstract, but through evidence, encounter, dialogue and policy design. Teams research for months before travelling. They arrive with a hypothesis, not a finished solution.

For three days they attend lectures, meet researchers and practitioners, visit institutions and communities, and test their assumptions against what they find. They then defend revised proposals in the Global Policy Challenge, and finalists present publicly in the Rwanda Policy Lab.



THE LEARNING ARC

01 Study → 02 Encounter → 03 Question → 04 Design → 05 Test → 06 Defend → 07 Reflect

High School Division

From concern about a problem to an evidence-based, defensible proposal.

Problem definition · evidence · target population · intervention · implementation · expected impact · risks · measurement

University Division

Greater analytical and policy depth, from financing to scalability.

All of the above, plus stakeholder analysis · financing · incentives · trade-offs · unintended consequences · scalability

DAY FIVE · THE RWANDA POLICY LAB

Not a pitch competition. Finalists defend their proposal before a multidisciplinary panel and show how their thinking changed in Rwanda.

8 min Policy presentation

12 min Expert interrogation — the longest segment, by design

5 min Final response

Rwanda is not merely the venue.
Rwanda becomes the campus.

Divisions are judged separately, with rubrics calibrated to the expected level of study.

Open to the world, convening in Kigali

200–250	3–5	2	10–20
STUDENTS · INAUGURAL TARGET	STUDENTS PER POLICY TEAM	DIVISIONS, ONE QUESTION	A UNIVERSITY STUDY-ABROAD COHORT

School delegations

High-school students attend through supervised delegations with designated teachers or chaperones.

University delegations

A small competition delegation, or a larger study-abroad cohort that forms several teams while sharing the academic programme.

Individual students

University students may join individually where team formation, safeguarding and logistics permit.

FIVE DAYS IN KIGALI

WED 26 MAY	**Representation** — what does equality mean? Keynote, seminars, data, team baseline.
THU 27 MAY	**Institutions & power** — what can policy change? Classroom learning and institutional encounters.
FRI 28 MAY	**Beyond representation** — what does equality look like in everyday life? Learning journeys and evidence revision.
SAT 29 MAY	**The Global Policy Challenge** — defend your solution. Preliminary and advancement rounds before expert panels.
SUN 30 MAY	**The Rwanda Policy Lab** — public finals, reflection and awards. Eight minutes to present, twelve to be interrogated, five to respond.

Residential dates: arrive Tuesday 25 May, depart Monday 31 May. Universities may build a longer 10–14 day Rwanda study experience around the forum. Safeguarding — consent, supervision ratios, accommodation, controlled transport, emergency procedures, media consent, codes of conduct and designated personnel — is settled before recruitment, not after it.

HOW PROPOSALS ARE ASSESSED

PROBLEM & CAUSAL DIAGNOSIS	20%
EVIDENCE & RESEARCH	20%
POLICY DESIGN & SOLUTION	20%
FEASIBILITY & FINANCING	15%
IMPACT & TRADE-OFFS	15%
COMMUNICATION & RESPONSE	10%

Indicative framework. Divisions are judged separately, with rubrics calibrated to the expected level of study.

Students do not arrive with a solution. They arrive with a hypothesis.

Make the cost predictable

USD 400

PER PARTICIPANT · BOTH EVENTS
DEBATERS, ADJUDICATORS, POLICY TEAMS AND ACCOMPANYING ADULTS ALIKE

Includes: accommodation on a shared-room basis for the official residential period of the event you attend, with breakfast · lunch on programme days · official dinners as scheduled · local transport, including coordinated airport and programme movements · competition and programme participation · ceremonies and signature events · medical and safeguarding support · accreditation and materials.

Not included: international airfare, visa fees where applicable, travel insurance, personal expenses, and meals outside official programme provision.

EVENT ONE · ASDC 2027

Four nights, 26–30 May

A country entering both leagues pays the package for every delegate it brings, adjudicators included. Arrival and departure are within the championship window.

EVENT TWO · IHURIRO 2027

Six nights, 25–31 May

The forum is residential from Tuesday 25 May to Monday 31 May. Universities building a longer 10–14 day Rwanda study experience are quoted separately for the additional days.

WHAT THE FEE IS NOT

The package covers a participant's costs on the ground. The wider programme — venue, adjudication, production, safeguarding, technology and staffing — is funded through sponsorship, institutional partnership and grant support, not through participant fees.

ENTRY TO RWANDA

Citizens of African Union member states are eligible for a free visa on arrival for eligible stays of up to 30 days. Entry requirements vary by passport; each participant remains responsible for confirming those that apply to them. A letter of invitation is issued to every confirmed delegation.

GETTING TO KIGALI

Kigali is the home hub of RwandAir, connecting East, Central, West and Southern Africa, and is served by other international carriers. Preferential delegate travel arrangements are under discussion and are not yet agreed.

WHAT A DELEGATION PAYS · WORKED EXAMPLES

A country sending **two national teams** — ten debaters, two accompanying adults and the one adjudicator the n – 1 rule requires.

USD 5,200

13 PARTICIPANTS

A country sending **three school teams** — fifteen debaters, three accompanying adults and the two adjudicators the n – 1 rule requires.

USD 8,000

20 PARTICIPANTS

A school or university sending **one policy team** — four students and one accompanying adult.

USD 2,000

5 PARTICIPANTS

The participant package is set at USD 400 for pre-registration. Any change before full registration opens on 31 December 2026 is communicated in writing to every pre-registered delegation, and no payment falls due before a delegation has been formally invited and has accepted.

Talent is distributed across the world.
Opportunity should be too.

What happens when

5 November 2026
Pre-registration opens for both events. Free, non-binding, online.

From 5 November 2026
Formal invitations issued on a rolling basis as each delegation pre-registers. You do not wait for the window to close.

15 December 2026
Pre-registration closes.

31 December 2026
Full registration opens, with confirmed fees, confirmed accommodation and confirmed entry requirements.

31 January 2027
First instalment due — 20%. Secures the delegation's places and its room allocation.

28 February 2027
Second instalment due — 30%. Challenge question and the Rwanda Reader released to registered policy teams.

31 March 2027
Final balance due — 50%. All participant payments complete.

30 April 2027
Final names, passport details, dietary and medical information, consent forms and travel itineraries due.

25–31 May 2027
Arrival from Tuesday 25 May. Both events run 26–30 May. Departure Monday 31 May.

THE PAYMENT SCHEDULE

20%
BY 31 JAN 2027
USD 80 per participant

30%
BY 28 FEB 2027
USD 120 per participant

50%
BY 31 MAR 2027
USD 200 per participant

WHY IT IS STAGED THIS WAY

Both events contract accommodation, venue and transport months in advance. Three instalments let a delegation plan its own fundraising around known dates, and let the organisers commit to suppliers on confirmed numbers rather than estimates. Nothing falls due before a delegation has been formally invited, and a delegation pays on the number of participants it has confirmed at each date.

CHANGES AND WITHDRAWALS

- **Pre-registration commits you to nothing.** The first payment falls due only after a formal invitation has been issued and accepted.
- **Name substitutions are free** until 30 April 2027.
- **Reducing numbers:** amounts already paid against a withdrawn participant transfer to another participant from the same delegation.
- **Late entry** after 31 March 2027 is at the discretion of the organising committee and subject to remaining accommodation.

HOW TO PAY

Payment instructions, banking details and invoicing arrangements are issued with each delegation's formal invitation. Delegations needing an institutional invoice or a proforma to release funds from a ministry, school board or sponsor should request one when they accept — better issued in January than chased in April. A delegation pays on the number of participants confirmed at each instalment date, not on the number first pre-registered.

Known dates. Known amounts.
Nothing due before you are invited.

Instalments are calculated per participant on the USD 400 package, for both events.

What a delegation takes home

Three programmes run alongside the championships, open to the adults who travel with the teams as well as the students who compete in them.

LAUNCHING IN KIGALI

African Judges Fellowship

An inaugural cohort of 15–20 adjudicators, selected by open application and assessed by the Chief Adjudication Panel. Its intended long-term home is the ASDC ecosystem, not the host.

FOR TEAM MANAGERS

Team Manager Series

Organisational development for the people who keep national programmes alive: building organisations, programme management, fundraising and resource mobilisation, and volunteer management.

WITHIN THE CHAMPIONSHIP

Championship broadcasting

Selected elimination rounds professionally recorded and distributed where partnerships permit. Not a separate competition. No round is recorded without agreed rights arrangements and written consent from delegations.





CHIEF ADJUDICATION PANEL · ASDC 2027

MOTIONS COMMITTEE	Mukudzeiishe Madzivire · Menzimuhle Ncube · Becky Alek
EQUITY	Joy Hadome · Donkor Archimedes
ASSISTANT CHIEF ADJUDICATORS	Abi Benie Umwari · Shema Hakidu
DEPUTY CHIEF ADJUDICATORS	Three places, filled by open application

The panel was shaped with the debate community following an open consultation. Deputy Chief Adjudicator applications are open to adjudicators from across the continent; details are issued with the full registration pack. Appointments are confirmed with the African Schools Debate Council.

We host as stewards, not owners.

HOW TO TAKE PART

Three steps to Kigali

01

Pre-register

Complete the online form between 5 November and 15 December 2026. Tell us which event you are interested in and how many teams you expect to enter. It takes a few minutes and commits you to nothing.

02

Receive your invitation

Invitations go out on a rolling basis as delegations pre-register, with the full registration pack, payment instructions and a letter of invitation for visa purposes.

03

Confirm and pay

Accept your invitation and pay in three instalments — 20% by 31 January, 30% by 28 February, and the balance by 31 March 2027.

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM · BOTH EVENTS

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScVGWGufst9PXRRt8ZACKIe_dVgUE1AknM7YPTyeeUjFKjA5A/viewform

Open 5 November – 15 December 2026. One submission per delegation. If your country has a national debate programme, please coordinate your championship entry through it so the Nations League places are filled once.

QUESTIONS

ORGANISING COMMITTEE	iDebate Rwanda
EMAIL	jhabineza@debaterwanda.org
TELEPHONE	+250 782 791 170
WEB	debaterwanda.org

WHO RUNS WHAT

ASDC 2027	Owned by the African Schools Debate Council. Hosted by iDebate Rwanda with the ALU Debate Club.
IHURIRO 2027	Convened by iDebate Rwanda.

We will see you in Kigali.